be deceived by the flatteries of that demon incarnate, the Antipope."[1]

The Prior of Gorgona and most of the others seem, sooner or later, to have obeyed the papal summons ; but, to Catherine's indignation, William Flete flatly refused to leave his wood, declaring that this was a device of the devil to deprive the servants of God of their spiritual consolations. It was even whispered that Giovanni Tantucci had gone to Rome simply for advancement. Catherine was too much hurt to write to William himself on the matter. "The youth who is bringing you the present letter," she wrote to Frate Antonio, " told me that you would come before Easter, but now it seems from the letter that Friar William has sent me that neither he nor you are coming. I do not intend to answer that letter ; but I am very sorry for his simplicity, because little honour of God or edification to his neighbour is the result of it. If he does not wish to come for humility or for fear of losing his peace, he ought to use that virtue of humility, that is, he should meekly and humbly crave leave from the vicar of Christ, beseeching his Holiness to be pleased to let him stay in the wood for his greater peace ; resigning himself, nevertheless, to his will, like one truly obedient; and this would be more pleasing to God and profitable to his own soul. But it seems to me that he has done entirely the contrary, declaring that he who is bound to the divine obedience need not obey creatures. I should not care about the other creatures, but that he should include the vicar of Christ, this grieves me greatly, seeing him so at variance with the truth ; for the divine obedience never draws us from obedience to him; nay, the more perfect our obedience to God, the more perfect is this other, and we are ever bound to be subject and obedient to his commands, even unto death. Even if the injunction he laid upon us should seem indiscreet, and deprive us of peace and consolation of mind, we should obey ; and, if we did the contrary, I deem it to be a great

[1] This passage is omitted in the Printed Versions of